

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A battery package comprising:

a group of batteries having a plurality of connected ~~secondary~~ batteries, ~~each~~ forming a ~~unit~~secondary battery;

a plurality of sensors for detecting a temperature and a voltage;

a display device for displaying a condition of the ~~group of batteries~~ secondary battery;

a switch for controlling charge and discharge of the ~~group of batteries~~ secondary battery;

and

an operational control circuit for generating a signal based on signals input from the plurality of sensors to make the display device display the condition of the ~~group of batteries~~, secondary battery and to activate the switch~~[[,]]~~ and;

~~wherein the battery package is further provided with a refreshing demand display device for displaying a need to initiate a refreshing charge and discharge.~~

2. (*Currently Amended*) A battery package according to claim 1, wherein:

the operational control circuit is provided with a non-detecting timer for preventing the sensors from detecting ~~the a rapid rise of voltage of the secondary battery~~ during a predetermined time period from beginning of the charge,

the operational control circuit counts a number of times that the voltage of the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery does not exceed~~[[s]]~~ a preset voltage within the predetermined time period, and

~~further wherein the battery package is provided with a~~ the refreshing demand display device ~~for displaying~~ displays a need to initiate a refreshing charge and discharge when the counted number reaches a predetermined number.

3. (*Currently Amended*) A battery package according to claim 1, wherein:

~~wherein the operational control circuit is provided with a non-detecting timer for preventing the sensors from detecting~~ the a rapid rise of voltage of the secondary battery during a predetermined time period from beginning of the charge,

the operational control circuit counts a number of times that the voltage of the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery does not exceed~~[[s]]~~ a preset voltage within the predetermined time period, ~~or~~ and

~~wherein the battery package is further provided with a~~ the refreshing demand display device ~~for displaying~~ displays a need to initiate a refreshing charge and discharge in any of events that the counted number reaches a predetermined number, and a recovery voltage of the batteries does not exceed a predetermined voltage after another predetermined time has elapsed from a moment when the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery comes to a final discharge voltage.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The battery package according to one of claim 1 and claim 3, wherein the refreshing demand display device displays a need to initiate the refreshing charge and discharge if the recovery voltage of the ~~secondary batteries~~ battery does not exceed 1.15 volt after at least one day or longer time has elapsed from the moment when the batteries come to the final discharge voltage.

5. (*Currently Amended*) The battery package according to one of claim 1 to claim 3, wherein each of the ~~secondary~~ batteries comprises an alkaline storage battery provided with a positive electrode mainly composed of a nickel oxide, a negative electrode, a separator, and an alkaline electrolyte.

6. (*Original*) The battery package according to claim 5, wherein the negative electrode comprises a hydrogen storage alloy.

7. (*Currently Amended*) The battery package according to one of claim 1 to claim 3, wherein the temperature sensor for detecting temperature detects a temperature of the ~~secondary batteries~~ battery, and the operational control circuit computes a rate of temperature change according to the detected temperature, and generates and delivers a signal for terminating the charge to the switch for controlling the charge and discharge of the ~~group of batteries~~ secondary battery, when the rate of temperature change exceeds a preset range.

8. (*Currently Amended*) A method of charging and discharging a battery in a battery package, the battery package comprising:

a group of batteries having a plurality of connected ~~secondary batteries~~, each forming a ~~unit~~ secondary battery;

a plurality of sensors for detecting a temperature and a voltage;

a display device for displaying a condition of the ~~group of batteries~~ secondary battery;

a switch for controlling charge and discharge of the ~~group of batteries~~ secondary battery;
and

an operational control circuit for generating a signal based on signals input from the plurality of sensors to make the display device display the condition of the ~~group of batteries~~, secondary battery and to activate the switch, ~~and~~

wherein the method ~~comprising~~ comprises carrying out a refreshing charge and discharge.

9. (*Currently Amended*) A method of charging and discharging a battery in a battery package, according to claim 8, the method comprising:

preventing the sensors from detecting ~~the~~ a rapid rise in voltage of the secondary battery ~~with by means of~~ a non-detecting timer provided in the operational control circuit;

counting a number of times in which the voltage of the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery does not exceed[[s]] a preset voltage within a predetermined time period ~~by means of~~ with the operational control circuit; and

carrying out a refreshing charge and discharge when the counted number reaches a predetermined number.

10. (*Currently Amended*) A method of charging and discharging a battery in a battery package according to claim 8, the method comprising:

preventing the sensors from detecting ~~the~~ a rapid rise in voltage of the secondary battery ~~with by means of~~ a non-detecting timer provided in the operational control circuit;

counting a number of times in which the voltage of the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery does not exceed[[s]] a preset voltage within a predetermined time period by means of the operational control circuit; and

carrying out a refreshing charge and discharge in any of events that the counted number reaches a predetermined number, and a recovery voltage of the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery does not exceed a predetermined voltage after another predetermined time has elapsed from a moment when the ~~batteries~~ second battery comes to a final discharge voltage.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to one of claim 8 and claim 10, comprising carrying out the refreshing charge and discharge if the recovery voltage of the secondary ~~batteries~~ battery does not exceed 1.15 volt after at least one

~~day or longer time~~ has elapsed from a moment when the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery comes to the final discharge voltage.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to one of claim 8 to claim 10, further comprising ~~of~~ charging the battery up to 90 to 120% of an initial capacity with a current of 5.0-It or less, and further charging up to 150 to 200% with a current of 2.0-It or less for a given duration controlled by the timer function provided in the operational control circuit during the refreshing charge and discharge, where "It" denotes a rated battery capacity.

13. (*Currently Amended*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to one of claim 8 to claim 10, further comprising ~~of~~ detecting a temperature of the ~~secondary batteries~~ battery with the sensor, computing a rate of temperature change according to the detected temperature ~~by means of~~ with the operational control circuit, and delivering a signal for termination of the charge to the switch for controlling the charge and discharge of the ~~group of batteries~~ secondary battery when the rate of temperature change exceeds a preset range.

14. (*Original*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to claim 13, wherein the rate of temperature change is preset to a range of 0.5 and 4.0 °C/min.

15. (*Original*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to claim 14, wherein the rate of temperature change is preset to a range of 1.0 and 3.0 °C/min.

16. (*Previously Presented*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to one of claim 8 to claim 10, comprising carrying out charge and discharge by any of a constant-current charging and discharging method, a constant-voltage charging and discharging method, and a combination of the constant-current charging and discharging method and the constant-voltage charging and discharging method.

17. (*Currently Amended*) The battery package according to claim 1, wherein the refreshing demand display device displays a need to initiate a refreshing charge and discharge if a recovery voltage of the ~~secondary batteries~~ battery does not exceed a predetermined voltage after a lapse of a predetermined time from a moment when the ~~secondary batteries~~ battery comes to a final discharge voltage.

18. (*Currently Amended*) The method of charging and discharging a battery according to one of claim 8, wherein the method carries out a refreshing charge and discharge if a recovery voltage of the secondary ~~batteries~~ battery does not exceed a predetermined voltage after a predetermined time has elapsed from a moment when the ~~batteries~~ secondary battery comes to a final discharge voltage.